



SECRETARY

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DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
Block 2 (7th Floor) CGO Complex
Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003

D.O.No.Adv (MS)/31/CFRBS/DBT/90

September 28, 1990

Dear Dr. Iyengar,

This is with reference to a communication No. 13/1/88-G dated September 20, 1990 addressed to the Department of Biotechnology from the Department of Atomic Energy, regarding the proposal for a Centre for Fundamental Research in Biological Sciences. I am sure, you are aware of the background of this proposal. This was approved during the 7th Five Year Plan in 1985 by the Planning Commission as one of the 3 national programmes of the Department of Atomic Energy. It was also referred to the erstwhile National Biotechnology Board, which accorded technical approval to the proposal. However, due to various reasons and delays in locating a place for the Centre and other negotiations, the main activity could not start.

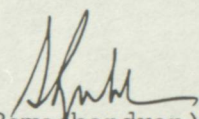
After receiving the communication from the DAE, I have discussed this in detail, with a group of experts, viz., Prof. Sharat Chandra, Director, CCMB, and Prof. G.P. Talwar, Director, NII; I also have the views of Prof. Amar Nath Bhaduri, IICB, Calcutta. It is fully recognised by the experts that research in modern biology has to be done on a much broader scale. It can only be done by building science around competent individuals. Considering the future requirements of the country, a multi-pronged research effort in the field of modern biology is required; several areas need much more amplification. Taking note of these, the Scientific programme for this Centre has been conceived.

It is also recognised that there is no clear cut distinction between basic and applied research in modern biology as is the case in Physical Sciences. Therefore, in evolving the scientific and technical programmes for such a Centre, important areas covering neurobiology, developmental biology, molecular and cellular biology, animal behaviour, theoretical biology etc. would need to be taken up on an inter-disciplinary basis. There will be need for a close association of the DBT with the activities of this Centre. The Centre, in fact, would undertake major research efforts in the areas of neurobiology, human genetics etc. as identified by DBT. In other words, the DBT would use the expertise of this Centre for building a strong base of modern biology.

In view of the above, we would support the setting up of the Centre as a constituent unit of the TIFR which has a very strong group in biological sciences, headed by Prof.O. Siddiqi. Also keeping in view the interdisciplinary nature of this field, the other groups in TIFR would provide the requisite expertise.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


(S. Ramachandran)

Dr.P.K. Iyengar,
Secretary,
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